

Using research and data to understand and strengthen rural school performance

Oklahoma's predominantly rural schools face significant challenges, compounded by a severe state teacher shortage. The **Oklahoma Rural Schools Research Alliance**, consisting of policymakers, rural educators, Native tribal members, and researchers, is addressing these challenges through **research and analytic technical support**.

“*The joint effort of the rural research alliance in creating the Oklahoma PD survey was nothing short of amazing and so well worth the time and effort, as we are already gleaning responses that will enhance OEQA's mission.*”

— Kathren Stehno, Ed.D., Coordinator,
Oklahoma Office of Educational
Quality and Accountability (OEQA)

Alliance priorities and work

Teacher recruitment and retention

- ▶ **Study:** Predictors of successful teacher recruitment and retention
- 🎯 **The data are informing state strategic planning, including the state's Teacher Shortage Task Force**

Access to high-quality professional development

- ▶ **Research review:** Identifying promising professional development (PD) practices for teachers
- ▶ **Workshop series:** Developing a survey to assess teacher PD access, practices, and needs
- ▶ **Study:** Descriptive analysis of the teacher PD survey by school locale
- ▶ **Technical assistance:** Building capacity to improve professional learning
- 🎯 **The data are informing the state's implementation of new professional learning standards**

Educators and data use

- ▶ **Workshop series and virtual training:** Educators and data use pilot, Byng Public Schools
- ▶ **Webinar series:** Implementing a data-literate culture in rural schools
- 🎯 **Schools are implementing the strategies learned and partnering with a teacher prep program**

Native family and community engagement

- ▶ **Workshop:** Promising family and community engagement practices and resources
- ▶ **Webinars:** Resources to support Native students and strengthen Native family/community engagement
- 🎯 **Alliance members developed family engagement plans and continue to share successful practices**

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